

February 21, 2017

Dear Honorable Members of the Appropriations Committee,

My name is Maureen Branciforte and I have worked as a Special Education Teacher at Guilford High School for the past 44 years. I am testifying on the impact of the Governor's budget on people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. As a district, we are committed to academic achievement, inclusion and successfully transitioning all individuals to the adult world. Although the majority of our students will go on to receive a post-secondary education other students will enter the work force and make a major contribution to the State of Connecticut's economy.

Students with intellectual and developmental disabilities need continued support to maintain the same success in the work world as they had in high school. Our public schools, our community and our business community have passionately given their time and energies so that all students successfully transition to the adult world. Therefore, funding for day programs and employment services need to be restored for the special needs population. Family support grants need to be in place as well as funding for new families who need behavioral support services.

Please support the Governor's proposal to invest \$3.8 million dollars in the ID Partnership. This extremely important partnership will help people on the DDS waiting list, stabilize community based supports and develop more residential options for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Legislators, please make the right decision to support our young disabled adults who so want to become responsible, contributing member of their community and the State of Connecticut. Help maintain and continue to foster the same success that our intellectually and developmentally disabled students have had through our public-school system.

Thank you for your time and efforts,

Respectfully,

Maureen Branciforte

Guilford High School: 605 New England Rd. Guilford, Ct. 06437

